# How The Christmas Song Was Found

—BY—

Lilian J. Pearson

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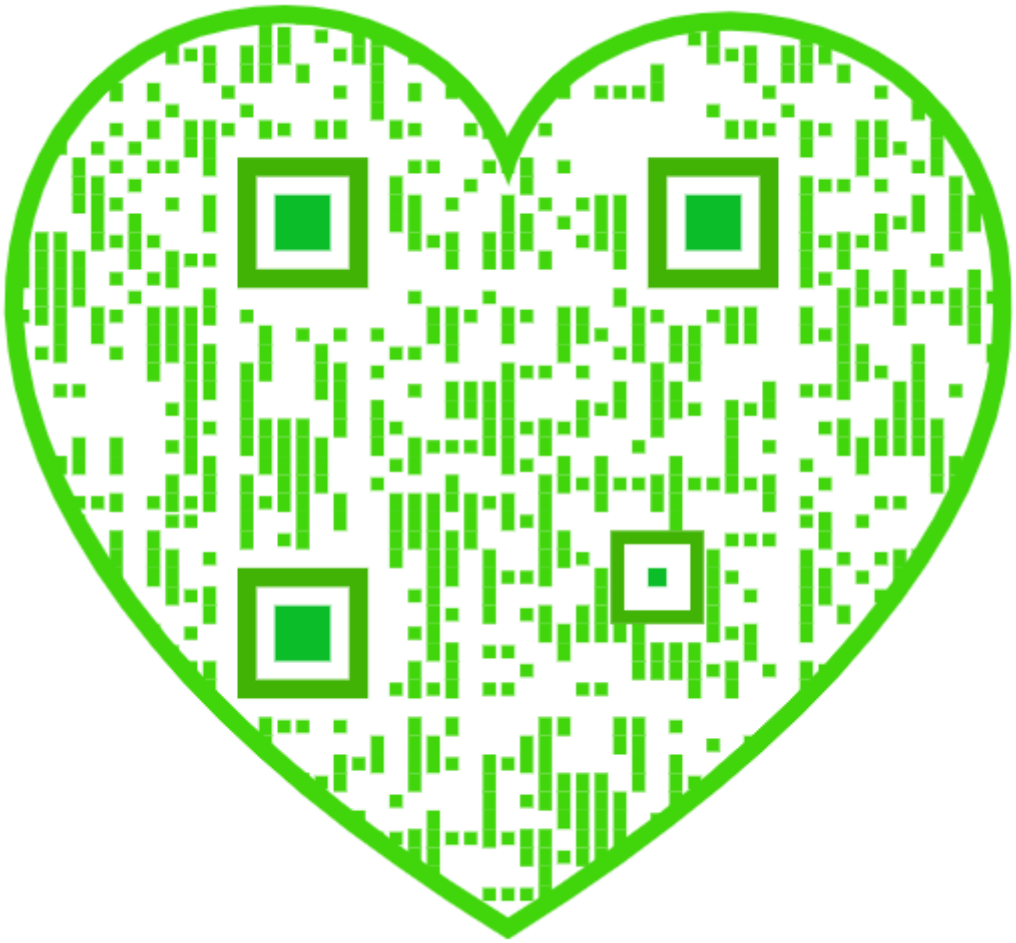
**Eldridge Entertainment House**

**Franklin, Ohio** *and* **Denver, Colo.**
944 So. Logan Street



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944 S. Logan St.

# How The Christmas Song Was Found

By LILIAN J. PEARSON

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## CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES

*Dryads—(two or more)* Our good impulses.
Dressed in long white robes.

*Gnome*—Our conscience.
Dressed as a little old man with long white beard.

*Notes of Joy, Tenderness, Sympathy, Pathos, Love,* girls.

*Notes of Triumph, Praise, Thanksgiving,* boys.

Notes should wear any bright costume with a hood resembling the head of a note, drawn tight around the face, the stem of the note hanging from the throat down in front of body. In short, they are to represent the notes of the scale.

*Spirit of Christmas*—Girl or Boy. Dressed in bright colors, red and green, and made to look plump and jolly.

These are only the speaking parts, but there can be a chorus of *Snowflakes*, a chorus of *Holly Wreaths*, and one of *Christmas Bells*.

*Snowflakes* should be dressed in white, and each should carry a horn filled with snowflakes, (soft little tufts of cotton) which they scatter while they sing.

*Holly Wreaths* should be dressed in green, and each should carry a small wreath, or bunch of holly and mistletoe.

*Bells* do not need an unusual costume, but look very attractive in bell-shaped skirts of wire covered with red or green crepe paper. If these are unavailable, the *Bells* can wear their ordinary clothes and carry small bells, or wear wristlets and anklets of them.

Time—Christmas Eve.

Place—A woodland scene. At one side of the stage there should be one real tree—The Christmas Tree. The "good deeds" and "kindly smiles," etc., which the Dryads gather, take on the form of tinsel and ornaments, with which they later trim the tree. At the other side, or across the corner, should be a five-rail fence( not essential) and as each *Note* finishes speaking, she, or he, takes a place upon this "staff."

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The following three songs may be used or not, as desired. If they are to be used they should be introduced at the places indicated in the sketch.

### SNOWFLAKE CHORUS

To the tune of "Work for the Night Is Coming."

Swiftly the flakes are flying
Down from the Christmas sky,
Cuddling the plants and flowers,
Where they sleeping lie;
Flinging a snowy mantle
Over the quiet town;
Trimming the trees and fences,
Softly gliding down.

✠

### HOLLY WREATH CHORUS

To the same tune

Bright are the leaves of holly,
Gleaming with berries gay,
Bringing a cheery message
For the Christmas Day.
Oh, may a kindly feeling
From man to man extend
So, like this wreath of Holly,
It may have no end.

✠

### BELLS' CHORUS

To the same tune

Out of the darkness stealing,
Hark to the merry sound,
Waking the joyous echoes
From the woods around.
Gladly we ring the message,
Loud let us chime, and long,
Tolling the dawn of Christmas
With our dong, ding, dong.

...

# How The Christmas Song Was Found

*(Curtain rises, disclosing a woodland scene. The Dryads advance from behind trees after the Bell Chorus, if it be used.)*

*First Dryad—*

Again the blessed Christmas bells ring out, set us free;
A night and day for work and play. Oh, happy nymphs are we!
So oft within our homes, alas, we're prisoned—cannot leave,
But, oh, the glad release that comes to us on Christmas Eve!

*Second Dryad—*

Yes, let us dance and sing with joy; our laughter echo free—
And then away to work and play; we'll trim the Christmas Tree.
*You'll* gather loving thoughts and smiles, and *I* the kindly deeds—
Distribute them as rays of joy to everyone who needs.

*Dryad's Song—(tune of chorus of "Jingle Bells.")*

Christmas bells, Christmas bells, you have set us free;
We cannot stay, but must away, to trim the Christmas tree.
Each kindly deed and thought, we need, to weave a chain so bright,
Of love and cheer for all the year, so now we bid good-night. (*Exeunt Dryads.*)

*(Snowflake Chorus, and Holly Chorus can be introduced here. See songs at beginning.)*

*(Enter Gnome of the Woods.)*

*Gnome—*

Alas! Alack! It can't be found;
I've searched both high and low;
The perfect Christmas song is gone;
Forgotten, years ago.

Each year I've tried a different tune,
But every one's been wrong;
None made the heart of *everyone*
Express itself in song.

I've worked with all my might and main
Within my wood this year,
That holly, mistletoe, and trees
Might bring the people cheer.

The Dryads are at work tonight,
They'll trim the tree ere long,
But,—Christmas joys won't be complete
Without that perfect song.

*(Voices in the distance are heard singing a lullaby)*

Ah, hark! Who sings so tenderly?
With joy the woods resound.
Yes, tenderness and joy combined,
But stay, the secret's found.
My songs till now have held one note;
Of triumph, praise or mirth;
The Perfect song needs some of each,
To stir all hearts on earth.

For some are quick to heed the call
Of laughter, light and gay;
While others, love the wistful notes,
That speak of yesterday.

Yo-ho! I beg you come to me
For I am sore in need.

*(Enter Note of Joy and Note of Tenderness.)*

*Joy—*

Dear Gnome, we'll help you all we can,
And gladly, too, indeed.

*Tenderness—*

Yes, I'm the Note of Tenderness
In every mother's voice.

*Joy—*

And I'm the Note of Joy, whene'er
Her baby she'll rejoice.

*Gnome—(to both)*

Of course *you* must be in the song,
For more than any other
Is Christmas Day the day of days
For every blessed mother.

And if the song holds tenderness
And joy, 'twill surely go
To mother hearts, and they'll recall
Christ's birth of long ago.

*(Another voice is heard now, continuing the lullaby. The sound comes nearer, and Note of Sympathy enters.)*

*Sympathy—*

And I'm the Note of Sympathy
In mother-songs today;
Into their hearts and voices creep—
I cannot keep away.

*Gnome—*

Oh, yes, indeed, we need you, too,
Will you not join us? See,
We're trying to find a Christmas song
Of perfect harmony.

*Sympathy—*

Ah, *may* I help? It seems to me
I'd find the greatest pleasure
In helping you the best I can
To sing through any measure.

*Gnome—*

Now, let me see—we need a note—
Hist! One comes softly creeping;
A note of wistfulness it seems,
Nay, more, 'tis surely weeping.

*(Enter Note of Pathos, softly humming a plaintive air.)*

*All Notes —(in unison)*

'Tis Pathos—bringing memories
Of pain forgot in gladness.

*Sympathy—*

She isn't all unhappy, tho,
But only tinged with sadness.
Please let her join the chorus too,
For everyone must love her;
She'll nestle close beside me here;
Let Joy be there above her.

*Gnome—*

Oh, Pathos, would you like it, dear,
With sister Notes to mingle?
You'd lend a more appealing tone
In chorus than just single.

*Pathos—*

I'd like to join the Christmas throng
As on that distant morn—
For I was in the song they sang
When Jesus Christ was born.

*(A voice is heard singing "Love's Old Sweet Song")*

*(Enter the Note of Love)*

*Love—*

Oh, I've been looking everywhere
Dear sister Notes, for you,
Remember this is Christmas Eve
And we have work to do.

*Gnome—*

Yes, work indeed, for everyone;
We're planning some this minute,
And want to work in unison,
Our plan—Will you be in it?

I know that you're the Note of Love,
And live in every breast.
At Christmas time you seem to be
The children's special guest.

*Love—*

Yes, I'm the Note of Love, I rang
Throughout the happy songs
Of children that first Christmas morn,
And of the angel throngs.

God loved the world, and gave His Son;
And Mary loved her Child;
All children love these sweetest tales
Of Christ and Mary, mild.

And so I'd like to join the song,
And joy and gladness bring
To everyone, this Christmastide.
Oh, happily I'll sing!

*(A voice is heard singing in ringing tones,* ***"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful."****)*

*Gnome—*

And who is this, with lusty shout?
A Note of Triumph, truly—
From conqueror's song, he's put to rout
All doubts and fears, unruly.

*(Enter Note of Triumph.)*

*Triumph—*

I *am* the Note of Triumph, true!
I sounded years ago,
When angels sang to shepherds, there
Upon the earth below.

*Gnome—*

Of course, and we have need of you
To stir the hearts of men,
Reminding them 'tis Christmas time,
And what it means, again.

*(Enter Note of Praise, singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.")*

*Praise—*

The wind came stealing down the vale
With mingled notes, that drew
Me to their midst, despite myself—
I'm Praise, I've come to you.

*Gnome—*

And just in time; the minutes fly.
Ah, time is very fleet!
And ere the dawn of Christmas Day
Our song must be complete.

*Praise—*

And may I help? I love to rise
Upon the wings of song,
As when the shepherds praises sang,
That day, now gone so long.

*(Enter the Dryads and Note of Thanksgiving.)*

*(This Note may here sing any song of Thanksgiving.)*

*First Dryad—*

Dear Gnome, we found this joyous note
Of gratitude, and knew
You'd need him for the Christmas song
So brought him here to you.

*Second Dryad—*

Tomorrow everyone should find
This Note among the rest,
For Christmas brings, of all the year
The Gift that is the best!

*Thanksgiving—*

Yes, I'm Thanksgiving, and I dwell
In every living thing;
But *people* often lock their hearts,
And will not let me sing.

*Gnome—*

We've gathered all the Notes we need
To make our perfect song;
Oh, surely no one can resist
Such harmony for long.

I'll call the Christmas Spirit in.
You, Dryads, trim the Tree.
Oh, what a happy gnome am I,
Such joy there's going to be!

*(The Dryads proceed to trim the Christmas Tree with ropes of tinsel—the loving thoughts and deeds they have gathered; and the Gnome calls.)*

*Gnome—*

Yo-ho! Brave Christmas Spirit, come,
With every lovely token;
Bring happiness to lonely hearts,
And balm to sore, or broken.

*(Enter Christmas Spirit.)*

*Christmas Spirit—*

A merry Christmas, everyone!
Yes, I'm the Christmas Spirit,
And if your heart be sad or sore,
Oh, please do let me cheer it.

I have no room for selfish thought,
Or sad or sorry grieving;
I leave a smile on every face,
And happiness, when leaving.

I send my many messengers,
In funny forms, and jolly;
Some go disguised as Mistletoe,
Or Christmas Trees, or Holly,

Some go as Turkeys, crisp and brown,
And some as Bells a-ringing,
And one is Santa, good and kind,
And others, voices singing.

And now I see that I'm to send
*This* blessed message winging;
There's none so poor in worldly goods
But can rejoice in singing.

This song contains a note to touch
Each heart; tho it be guarded,
It must respond to this new song—
With joy 'twill be rewarded.

Come, let us sing this Carol grand,
That tells of Peace on earth,
Of Joy and Love and Sympathy
That came at Jesus' birth.

And let us hearty praises sing;
And songs of true thanksgiving
For that Great Gift of other years
That still for us is living.

*(To the audience)*

And won't you open wide your hearts?
Embrace the Christmas spirit?
And sing with us this Christmas hymn,
Till all the world may hear it?

*(All join in singing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" or one of the other well-known and much-loved Christmas hymns. The children sing the first verse alone and then the audience takes it up and all sing together.)*

*CURTAIN*

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**I Wish I Had A Ginger-cake**
**Our Twins**
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**When Grandpop Was A Boy**
**When Daddy Took Me Up In A 'Plane**
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